



Basketball season heats up

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Horsin' around

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The Signal



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News UPDATE

Tree lighting

The Fort Gordon Christmas tree lighting ceremony and concert is 6 p.m. **today** at Freedom Park. Refreshments will follow the ceremony. For information, call 791-4140.

Trash pickup

Holiday trash collection for all the housing areas is Dec. 24 and 31; bulk trash will be picked up Dec. 17 and Jan. 7. Christmas trees will be picked up Jan. 5.

For information on trash collection, call Rodney Richardson at 791-3483. For information regarding tree pick up, call Sgt. Maj. Steven Goulet at 791-6483.

Change of command

Capt. Eric Strom will relinquish command of Company A, 67th Signal Battalion to Capt. James Christman at 11 a.m. **Monday** on Barton Field, behind the 67th Signal Battalion headquarters.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be at Gym 3. For information, call 791-4644.

Winter camps

Youth services offers a School Age Winter Camp for ages 6-11, and a Teen Winter Camp for ages 11-14, **Dec. 22-Jan. 2**, at Youth Services, Building 45410.

Hours for the School Age camp are 5:15 a.m.-6 p.m., Teen Camp hours are 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

For registration information, call 791-6500 or go to www.fortgordon.com.

BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers meets at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesdays** at the new BOSS headquarters, Building 28320 on Lane Avenue.

Learn about upcoming events or share ideas for new events.

For information call Sgt. Latanga Clinton, BOSS president, at 791-6415, or the BOSS advisor at 791-7862.

Holiday blood drive

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Garrison Command, is sponsoring a holiday blood drive, **Wednesday** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Courtyard Recreation and Dining Center.

All donors receive a coupon for a free turkey dinner the day of the drive, or to be used at a later date at the Courtyard. Those who cannot donate blood and donate \$5 towards phone cards for deployed Fort Gordon Soldiers will also get the coupon. For information, call 791-8500.

Soldiers, students form common bond

Spc. Felicia Thompson
513th Military Intelligence Brigade

Soldiers from the 201st Military Intelligence Battalion stationed here participated in the annual Civics Day Event for Dearing Elementary School students Dec. 1.

More than 20 Soldiers from the battalion took part in the event.

Dr. Linda Grisham, the school's principal, spoke about the event as a "great partnership" between her school and the 201st Soldiers. Grisham explained that the students affectionately say the people representing the 201st are "our Soldiers."

"These Soldiers are heroes to these students," she said.

During the event, the 453 students divided into small groups. They rotated through a five-station setup where the students got a chance to view and become familiar with some of the Soldier's equipment and

training. They also got a taste of Army physical training.

"I like to do (physical training)," said Scott Bohler, a nine-year-old third grader. "Because you get to race, do jumping jacks (side-straddle hops) and push-ups."

The students remained at each station for 15 minutes each. At the first station, students performed a regimen of push-ups, side-straddle hops and the mountain climber, and learned drill and ceremony including marching and saluting.

"This station is fun and they get to get all their energy out," said Sgt. Lindsey Hyle, a signal analyst and station instructor.

Staff Sgt. Raymond Droessler, also a signal analyst and station instructor said, "This is the best station because we do not have to wear battle-rattle," referring to the Soldiers who were wearing the kevlar, desert combat uniforms, and load bearing vest.

The second station was a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical display. Soldiers instructed students in the proper wear of Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear during a potential NBC attack. Students also got a chance to sit in a Humvee.

"I feel like I am going on a secret mission" Chartrice Jones, a 10-year-old fifth grader said.

Students tasted Meals Ready to Eat at the third station. Briana Amerson, a nine-year-old, third grader, tried the beef stew.

"It tastes like regular beef stew. It tastes better than my mom's," she said.

Communications and a 0E254 radio antenna was set up at the fourth station. Students learned official communications as they used the radio, receiving and sending messages.

The final station offered camouflage application, a HUMVEE ride, and a cargo net set up. After students stood in



A ride in the back of a Humvee was a favorite for many of the students.

line to get their faces painted in shades of green, brown, and black, they climbed in the back of a Humvee and were ground guided on a bumpy ride on school grounds. As some students rode in the Humvee others played and flipped inside the cargo net.

"Students were excited about this day's event. They could not wait to get to the Humvee," said Taelaine Sneed, a second grade reading and math teacher.

As a treat, Grisham invited the Soldiers to eat lunch in the cafeteria with the students.

"They invited us to lunch to enjoy their wonderful cafeteria food," said Sgt. William Lawler, a signal intelligence analyst.

Following the full day of activities, Soldiers packed up their gear and prepared their vehicles for the convoy home.

Hyle expressed how she felt about today's event by saying, "There's nothing better than to see the children light up. This is our job but these kids think we're super heroes."

Soldiers from the battalion

have been visiting the school since 1999. This particular day was special because the Soldiers got a chance to thank the students and faculty for sending CARE packages of chewing gum, magazines, and playing cards to locations in Kuwait and Iraq, for Soldiers deployed during Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Lt. Col. Ronald Seldon, commander of the 201st, said this was a great opportunity for the students to see Soldiers in a non-military environment.

"It's our opportunity to give back to the community," he said.

Seldon's Soldiers also thought participating in this event was special.

"This is a chance for us to show (students) who we are on a personal level instead of just on CNN. It helps them appreciate us as a part of their community," said Capt. Dave Hansen, a battalion operations officer. "The deployment made things click. We have a real relationship and bond because of the way they took care of us."



Photos by Capt. Dave Hansen

Spc. Justin Slate applies camouflage paint to a student's face at the Dearing Elementary School Civics Day Event Dec. 1.

Iraqi lessons learned reviewed

Pvt. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

A conference held at Alexander Hall Dec. 4 examined lessons learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A panel of officers discussed everything from operational tactics and strategy, to Soldiers' morale and welfare in the Middle East and their families' morale in the states.

Members of the panel included Col. Brian Hurley, 11th Signal Brigade, Lt. Col. Michelle Walla, 501st Signal Battalion commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault),

Lt. Col. Joe Brendler, 123rd Signal Battalion commander, 3rd Infantry Division, Lt. Col. Brian Moore, 17th Signal Battalion and Lt. Col. John Schliefer, 124th Signal Battalion, 4th ID.

Each spoke of the issues they encountered while assigned to Operation Iraqi Freedom and answered questions from the audience ranging from new equipment to Soldiers' success, said Lt. Col. David O'Neal, chief of the Materiel Requirements Division, who helped organize and host the event.

O'Neal served 21 months

overseas with all of the presenters, first during Operation Enduring Freedom then in OIF.

He was deployed 599 days, first to Uzbekistan just after the September 11 terrorist attack and stayed until Afghanistan fell - then on to Camp Doha where he was on the C-6 Battlestaff for a year, then to Camp Arifjan where he was the C-6 OIC.

He explained the event was held because of interest in what happened in OIF.

O'Neal said he had received numerous requests for a conference about OIF so everyone

See Lessons, page 4A



Photo by Pvt. Armando Monroig

A review of lessons learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom was held at the Symposium.

Secure information transmission vital

Pvt. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

An Information Assurance workshop was held Dec. 2 at the 73rd Ordnance Battalion conference room as part of Signal Symposium week activities.

"The name itself kind of implies what it means," said Randal McNeil, chief of Information Assurance Division at the U.S. Army School of Information Technology. "Assuring that your information is there."

McNeil said this includes cryptography, network security, and technology and policies that the Army and Department of Defense are implementing.

He said it is all about security of information.

McNeil said anyone who has an interest in Signal or communications was present at the IA workshop, adding that IA is an integral part of most jobs in today's work force, especially the military.

"People wouldn't know how to do their jobs anymore without e-mail or Internet," said McNeil.

He explained it is impera-

the military's information be protected and kept secure so the wrong people won't be able to access it. The goal is to keep the wrong people from getting into, attacking, or destroying information that is critical to departmental security.

McNeil said IA is a worldwide issue and that all services are involved. He said the National Security Agency is also involved with this issue and had representatives in attendance, discussing wireless security.

"One of the reasons we did this was to keep attention on it (IA issue)," said McNeil. "IA right now is one of the most critical issues in networking and communications everywhere. We can't function without it anymore."

He cited the recent power grid blackout in the Northeast as an example of the dependence on technology and networking in order to function on a day-to-day basis.

"It's a hot topic right now," he said.

McNeil said his division

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Hicks assesses state of Signal

Denise Allen
Signal staff

Although it had been a year since her first State of the Regiment address, Brig. Gen. Janet A. Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander, said it only felt like a few weeks.

"The year has passed quickly and has been filled with extraordinary events and equally extraordinary accomplishments," she said Dec. 3 to a standing room only crowd at Alexander Hall during the 31st Annual Signal Regimental Symposium.

Since last year's symposium, about half of the Signal Corps' forces have been deployed in support of missions such as Operation Iraqi Freedom and the war against terrorism.

"You took it all in stride. You were innovative and adaptive. You supported the warfighter as you always have. You got the message through," she said.

Over the past year, she and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry have met with Soldiers describing the Signal Corps' challenge of "getting from our current systems and structures

to something that will satisfy the needs of the Future Force commander is a clear and compelling need. This past year's events have shown us that we cannot wait for the Future Force. We must act now to bring critical network capabilities to the current force."

To move ahead, "we are fully engaged with development of the maneuver unit of action and the future combat system. We've placed a full-time officer with the UA team at Fort Knox, and people from all corners of the Regiment are active participants in a vast array of UA teams, committees and working groups."

One of the things that needs to be done now to ensure future success is to increase the bandwidth capabilities in satellite communications systems as discovered in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"There were no UAV surrogate satellites to fill the gap. We need to fix that.

The non-linear nature of the fight put signal node centers in isolated locations at high risk. They either located with defended command posts or required the commitment of combat forces for protection. We have to find a way to build a network that doesn't rely on isolated sites," she said.

Hicks said that the new Army chief of staff wants to fix the problems "right away. One of the 15 top priorities of the chief when he assumed his position was the network. He

wanted to know where to go with it, how to build it, how to oversee it and what it should be able to do."

The Signal Center, she said, had the lead in the chief of staff's effort.

"It's been a fast and furious few months for the new chief. One thing is clear, however. He means business, he's willing to invest in current force capabilities, and he's totally focused on our Army at war.

"This will be the most sweeping transformation of the Signal Regiment since the mid-80s when mobile subscriber equipment came on the scene."

Hicks said that the state of the Signal Corps is "very strong. We have identified to Army leadership what the Army needs to be relevant and successful on the joint battlefield, and we are speaking with one voice, perhaps more than ever before in our history, to move the Army and Regiment forward."



Real-time communications vital

Keynote speaker addresses OIF Signal issues, technology

Denise Allen
Signal staff

Past military training exercises overlooked and took for granted a vital key to their success.

"We pushed Signal units out days ahead," said Lt. Gen. William S. "Scott" Wallace, former commander of V Corps, now commander of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth. "Establishing communication should have been the exercise."

Wallace was the keynote speaker at the 31st Annual Signal Regimental Symposium Dec. 3 at Alexander Hall.

Wallace, who commanded troops in Iraq, spoke about lessons learned during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Battle communication on the move is a concept that works," he said.

Satellite e-mail, single channel tactical satellite radios and unmanned vehicles provided Wallace with a wealth of information in real time that line of

sight couldn't touch.

Unfortunately, not all leaders had the technological capabilities that he did.

Line of sight communication with a commander tethered to his post doesn't work in the 21st century; however, most lower level commanders found themselves tied to their posts depending on 20th century technology and not getting all the information they needed, Wallace said.

The optimum conditions would allow the most advanced

technology into the hands of the trigger puller, he said.

One major challenge to providing updated technology to every Soldier is lack of bandwidth.

Unfortunately, he said, the Army is a little late in requesting additional bandwidth as other service branches have gotten there first.

Wallace said the time to be ready for the next battle is now.

"We must do it now," he said. "If you haven't noticed, it's already the 21st century."

IA

From page 1A

trains Department of the Army personnel as well as the other branches of the military and federal agencies. Headquartered here, he said they have 11 mirror sites throughout the world in places like Germany, Korea and Hawaii.

Among the speakers was Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander.

Hicks said all branches of the military need to work as a team, to ensure information assurance is addressed.

She said it is imperative to have a network which is big enough, dependable enough and impenetrable.

"This network will enable combat system support on the battlefield, be self-healing, self-configuring," said Hicks. "We want this network to be able to do SIPRNET, NIPRNET and things like that in the battlefield."

"IA is a booming industry," she said. "It is a mandate, a compelling need."

Another speaker at the workshop was Col. Jean Tyler, director of the Defense-wide Information Assurance program at the office of the Secretary of Defense, who discussed the program.

"We are beginning to see some synergy in the Depart-

ment of Defense and really bring about IA as a functional combat multiplier," said Tyler.

He said it is an integral part of the military and its functionality.

Tyler explained it is a work-in-progress; a constant journey working toward insuring that IA projects are being done correctly.

He said the IA race is being won but there are many hurdles ahead.

"We stopped the F22 fighter program in its tracks because it wasn't IA compliant," said Tyler.

Tyler said he had the authority over the weapons system through congressional mandate.

"One of the biggest problems we have in the bigger IT arena: the difference between weapons systems and IT systems," said Tyler. "We will never get through this centrality if we can't solve that problem."

He said one of the biggest variables in IA is technology is changing rapidly and is difficult to keep up with.

"We're buying old stuff," he said. "We need to get ahead of that curve and get that technology into our stream quicker."

Another one of the hurdles that must be overcome is policy, said Tyler.

"DoD policy takes a minimum of 24 months (for approval)," he explained. "There's 10,000 people in D.C. who can say no."

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Boutelle speaks about Regiment’s future

Sgt. Ryan Matson
Military editor

Several of the Army’s top commanding officers spoke at this year’s Signal Symposium Dec. 3 in Alexander Hall.

Lt. Gen. Steven Boutelle, U.S. Army chief information officer, G-6, talked about the Army’s senior leadership and visions for the future of the Signal Corps.

In his 58-minute speech, Boutelle talked about a wide range of topics – satellites, consolidating servers, basic training, the ongoing threat of global terrorism, but focused mainly on the new Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, and where he sees the Army going under his leadership.

He said that since the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Army staff has transformed.

“For relevancy we have to change,” Boutelle said. “Fact: people don’t like change they like to operate within their zone of comfort. Some of you aren’t going to like what we’re doing. That’s OK, if you don’t like it, you can find a better place to be, because if we don’t change, we’re irrelevant.”

Schoomaker’s changes will come rapidly, Boutelle said.

“Any new boss who comes in, he takes three to six months, puts his plan together, and the next three and a half years executing,” he said. “We’re about two months into this new boss and he’s laid out his 15 plus one imperatives.”

Boutelle said he sees the new Chief of Staff as a person who returned to duty due to concern and a sense that he could provide urgent help.

“He picked up his cell phone and somebody asked him, ‘How would you like to be Chief of Staff of the Army?’” Boutelle said. “How’d you like to get that phone call after being out of the Army for four years?”

“He did not come back to self-factualize, he did not come back for a promotion, he didn’t come back with his own agenda. He came back because he believes the nation is at risk. He will tell you that his greatest fear is that he looks out his nice bay window there from quarters one and sees a mushroom-shaped cloud over Washington.”

One of the main messages Boutelle said Schoomaker is trying to convey is that the threat of terrorism is still ongoing and the Army continues to fight every day.

“When the Al Qaeda tried to take down the World Trade Center the first time, they only killed one person,” Boutelle said.

“We know now they started planning immediately after that, and five years later took it down. On Sept. 11, they had a tactical strike, they killed 3,000 people. They missed the White House, they missed the Capitol, and for all practical purposes, they missed the Pentagon. We know – you can read an open source in the papers, and the U.N. report that came out yesterday – that they are being resourced and we have not been able to curve their resourcing. They’re gaining in momentum in dollars, and they’re planning. It may not be today, it may not be tomorrow and it may not be next year, but you’re at war, your nation is at war and your Army is at war. That’s one of the messages the chief tries to put through.”

“Each of you needs to help us with the civilian populous to understand that,” he said.

People are starting to assume the country’s problems with terrorism have come to an end, Boutelle said.

“I know when I travel around the nation to see family and friends, it’s like, ‘It’s over, you kicked the Taliban out of Afghanistan and now let’s just figure out what we’re going to do in Iraq, and it’s over.’ It’s not over, and it’s not going to be over for your generation and generations after that.”

To combat this threat, Boutelle said the Chief of Staff will make sure the force has proper capabilities.

“He’s going to resource our networks and our systems,” Boutelle said. “He understands. He knows what this is about.”

One of the immediate changes that will take place under Schoomaker’s direction, Boutelle said, is the restructuring of basic training.

“So now in basic training, when these Soldiers come out of there, they will know what it’s like to have live fire go over their heads, not once, many times,” Boutelle said. “Everyone will qualify (on a weapon) twice a year. They need to go out in basic training and go that 72 hours without sleep until you get into the zone. He is reshaping real time, and you’re not gonna’ see this in ‘06, ‘07, ‘08.”

“He said ‘what do you mean we’re shortening basic training?’ We’re not going to shorten basic training. We’re going to make it more intense – we need a different type of Soldier today than we needed before September 11.”

Boutelle said the people fighting the war on terrorism don’t only include Soldiers, but people like those exhibiting technology in the Symposium tent.

“I should add in the contractors,”

Boutelle said when breaking down the thousands of people making up the fighting force in the Persian Gulf. “We have 4,700 contractors employed in the Gulf right now. Do you know we’ve had 14 killed in action for hostile fire, 16 killed in non-hostile fire? This is truly an integrated Army.”

“You’ve all been in the same general lexicon of countries,” Boutelle said. “Our JCSC said it was 22 locations, back in March, 10 different countries.”

He also mentioned some Signal equipment that has performed well in combat situations.

“We talked about networks in Iraq and Afghanistan,” Boutelle said. “Blueforce tracking turned out to be a real winner. It’s FBCB2 on a satellite string – the same thing we put out in the Bosnia world, the Kosovo world, enhanced and on a different satellite.”

He said units are going to combine and change very quickly in the upcoming days.

He also said the Army has been relying too heavily on commercial satellites.

“You know we’re at 80-percent commercial satellite in the Gulf, 20-percent military,” Boutelle said. “That needs to be reversed. We need to be 80-percent military supplemented by commercial. We have four satellite constellations coming up in the next few years, that will help.”

“Commercial is good, but the commercial stuff is at risk. Those commercial downlinks around the world that we buy are a great risk. If somebody takes one of those down our entire theater can collapse in certain area, and that’s why we have to stay with military constellations.”

One of the cost-cutting measures relating to computers Boutelle wants to see enacted is the consolidation of Army servers.

“We have servers everywhere, they’ve sprouted like a thousand flow-ers,” Boutelle said. “We’ve got to consolidate servers, you’ve got to help me on that.”

Boutelle said there are servers running on five and 10 percent capacity.

“We cannot afford to pay the bill for the infrastructure we’re paying today,” he said, adding that saving money now is key to prepare for future budget cuts.

“When the American public believes we have put Al Qaeda and the associated organizations out of business, you will see a tremendous drop in your resources,” he said. “The budget, the bottom drops out of it. Start consolidating now or you’ll be in real trouble in three to five years.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. André Butler

Deck the halls...

The 116th Military Intelligence Group was responsible for decorating the Christmas House this year. Soldiers and family members began decorating the house in early November. Here, Spc. Wayne Landis, Company A, 206th Military Intelligence Battalion, helps decorate the Christmas House. The Christmas House program was established in 1966 by a group of nurses from Eisenhower Army Medical Center to assist families who were unable to travel home for the holidays and were financially unprepared to purchase toys and holiday food items.

This year the goal of the Christmas House was to raise enough money to provide toys and meals to at least 300 families in the Fort Gordon community.

Lessons

From page 1A

could hear the issues that these panelists had to deal with, ask questions and learn.

Walla gave a briefing on what she expected of the platoon leaders, platoon sergeants and company commanders in regard to her experiences in OIF. Her slides were geared toward the leader and what kinds of things he had to worry about in taking care of their Soldiers. She highlighted those items that make great Soldiers into leaders of Soldiers/communicators.

“As the Div G6, I had to stay inside the decision cycle of my division commander so I could anticipate where our Signal assets had to be located in order to provide the division with flawless voice and data communications,” said Walla.

In addition to organizing where communications will be located Walla

said it was her job to make sure communication lines were open.

“As the Signal battalion commander, I reinforced those simple signal characteristics of a good network...redundancy, flexibility, initiative, and planning on the move,” Walla explained. “These were all needed to install and maintain a worthwhile network for the war-fighters.”

She said she enjoyed participating in the OIF conference and Signal Symposium week.

“This was the most rewarding time I spent at Fort Gordon during this Signal Symposium. Anytime I get to spend time with leaders and Soldiers, it is worthwhile,” said Wall.

“These are the Soldiers and leaders of the future and they will proudly carry our tradition of the ‘communicator on the battlefield’ for years to come.”

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Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Winter weather driving tips

With the holiday season looming, more drivers will be on the road to visit families and take much-needed vacations. Combined with the accompanying colder weather, here are some reminders of how to drive safely in winter conditions.

Before you leave, be prepared at all times for weather changes affecting driving safety. Weather changes can quickly alter road conditions and visibility. You can drive around a corner and suddenly find your vehicle skidding across invisible ice, which has accumulated in a shaded area. You can be cruising along and wonder where the scenery went – it is shrouded by thick fog.

A good driver prepares for all driving conditions that may be encountered. Maintaining their vehicle to handle in all types of weather. Learn to anticipate driving conditions by being aware of weather changes.

- Tune in to radio and television reports describing road and weather conditions.

- When planning a trip out of the local area, telephone ahead for highway and weather reports. You might be advised to carry chains to cross a mountain pass, or learn that a route is closed altogether.

- In the Northern states it's safe to assume it is going to snow this winter, just like every winter before. Equip your vehicle for the conditions you might drive through. Don't wait until the first snowfall to install your winter or all-season tires.

- Carry survival supplies in case you get stuck. Warm clothing, boots, gloves, quick energy food, matches and a candle are the minimum to carry in your vehicle in all seasons.

- Have the position of your headlights, tail-lights and fog lights checked before the cold or rainy season. If they are too low, you won't see much; if they are too high, they can cause potentially dangerous glare for other drivers.

- Learn how your vehicle handles in rough weather conditions. Front wheel drive, rear wheel drive and all wheel drive vehicles each have a different "feel" to them. Learn how to correct a skid before it happens for real.

- Get used to your anti-lock brakes before you need them in an emergency. Read the owner's manual for your vehicle, which will explain you

can hit them hard without pumping them if you need to stop suddenly.

- Wet weather can cause landslides, and avalanches are common hazards in many regions in the winter and spring. Obey all warnings about avoiding these areas.

- Sometimes road and weather conditions are too extreme to drive at all. If the highway patrol tells you to stay off the road because of ice or snow, do everyone a favor and obey.

- Flood warnings are other good reasons to stay home. Every year there are tragic reports of drivers who tried to drive across flooded roads and were drowned.

- On the other end of the weather scale, severely hot and dry weather poses dangers to travelers in the form of fires in forests and grasslands. Smoke reduces visibility for highway drivers. There is always the risk of being trapped by fire, especially when traveling off the main roads, so stay away from areas where fires are burning. Report fires immediately.

Severe weather adds to the challenge of driving safely. Be aware of weather patterns so you can stay off the road in extreme conditions. Watch continually for changes in road surfaces and visibility, which accompany sudden weather changes.



Once you've hit the road, keep in mind:

- Before you start out, clear the entire windshield and all windows and mirrors. You need to be able to see as much as possible around you to avoid collisions.

- Keep brake and signal lights clear of ice and snow.

- Keep your eyes moving to be aware of the traffic situation all around you. Don't just concentrate on what is right in front of you. Scan the distance and glance frequently at your mirrors. If you receive information too

late you will have to make a sudden move; watch and anticipate hazards.

- As a minimum, double the following distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you. Maintain as much free space around your vehicle as possible. Keep the sides and rear of your vehicle as clear of other vehicles as possible.

- Maintain communication with other drivers to make sure they see you and you understand one another's intentions. Use your lights, horn and even eye contact to communicate.

- Adjust your speed to road conditions. Allow more travel time.

- Pay attention constantly to the road conditions, which can vary even from one lane to the next.

- Build up your speed gradually before traveling uphill. Shift down smoothly, possibly before you start up. As you reach the top, be ready for unseen hazards such as a sudden downhill grade or a stalled vehicle.

- Use lower gears instead of brakes to travel down a steep hill.

- Avoid sudden steering movements. Be ready to steer smoothly as you approach a curve. Plan any lane changes well ahead of time.

- On icy roads, any driving maneuver can set off a skid. Braking, steering, accelerating and taking your

foot off the accelerator can all result in a loss of control. Carry out these moves with a light touch, being continually aware of the vehicle's response.

- Brake correctly for the type of vehicle you are driving. For some braking systems, a quick, light pumping of the brakes is the way to stop on ice while maintaining steering control. Avoid locking the brakes. If you have air brakes, keep an eye on the air pressure. Anti-lock braking systems should not be pumped.

Check with the manufacturer for the correct operation of your braking system.

- Keep all your wheels moving to maintain control of your vehicle. Locked wheels can result in a jack-knife.

Strive to maintain traction at all times. You need positive contact with the road surface to control the direction and speed of travel. Drive moderately and gently. Avoid sudden braking, accelerating or turning.

(Tips provided by the Fort Gordon Safety Office.)

Identity theft: Now that's personal

Identify theft is when your personal data is stolen, either physically or virtually. Your personal information includes bank account numbers, credit card numbers, mother's maiden name, your income, your Social Security number, your name, address and phone number, and your birth date.

HOW IT HAPPENS

Thieves can get access to your personal information in many ways. Whenever you write a check at the grocery store, charge tickets to a ball game, rent a car, mail your tax returns, call home on your cell phone, order new checks, apply for a credit card, throw away unsolicited offers for credit cards you received in the mail, you are leaving traces of your personal data. By losing your wallet, or even your address book, you increase the chances that a thief can rob you of your personal information.

WHAT IT'S USED FOR

Identity theft is used to charge purchases, for example to your credit card. In some cases, the thieves call the credit card issuer and change the mailing address so there is a delay before you are even aware that there are fraudulent charges to your card.

Personal information can also be used to open a new credit card account. If their bills aren't paid, you are penalized for delinquency by getting a low rating on your credit report. Phone or wireless services might be opened in your name but without your knowledge. A bank account might be opened in your name, with bad checks written against that account, which also affects your credit rating.

HOW TO PREVENT IT

Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or are sure you know whom you are dealing with.

Periodically check your credit reports from each of the three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, to make sure the information on the report is accurate.

Pay attention to your billing cycles on credit cards and bank statements. Follow up with creditors if bills do not arrive on time.

Keep financial documents in a secure place. Use safety deposit boxes. For information you need to have at home, keep it under lock and key.

Place passwords on all of your accounts, avoiding using easily available information like your mother's maiden name or your birth date.

Inquire about virtual credit card numbers. Some major banks and credit card companies have instituted these numbers so that whenever you make a transaction online, your actual account number is never used.

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT HAPPENS

Call the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline at (877)438-4338. The FTC developed the ID Theft Affidavit to help victims of identity theft restore their good names. It simplifies the process of disputing charges with companies where a new account has been opened in your name. For a copy go to www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

Contact the three major credit bureaus; TransUnion (800-888-4213); Experian (888-EXPERIAN); and Equifax (800-685-1111).

Close the accounts you believe have been affected.

File a report with the legal authority in the community where the identity theft took place.

(Courtesy Militaryloans.com. This the fourth in an ongoing series of money management tips designed for military personnel. All tip sheets are available online at www.militaryloans.com.)

Vacation safety tips

Don't let a great vacation give way to a possible break-in. Precautions for safekeeping your home while your family is on vacation can provide the important benefits of safety and peace of mind.

- Inform a trusted neighbor of your departure and return dates. Leave a

number where you can be reached in case of an emergency. Be sure to leave a house key with your neighbor, and ask him to park in your driveway.

- Have a neighbor pick up newspapers and mail. Arrange for lawn trimming and clearing of the walkways.

- Valuables should be stored in a safe deposit box.

- Use clock timers to activate lights or radios at intervals, giving the impression that someone is home.

- All tools and ladders should be out of sight and locked up. Don't provide a thief with tools to invade your home.

- Unplug all electrical appliances and the television to prevent against a fire hazard in your absence.

- Close the fireplace flue to prevent birds or animals from entering.

- Put your garbage cans in the basement or in storage shed; empty ones are a sure sign you're away.

- Before leaving, double check to ensure all entries are secured.

Unoccupied dwellings are a favorite target for a thief. Safeguard your home before leaving on vacation.

(Courtesy Fort Gordon Safety Office.)



The Signal

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Yearly award winners named

Fort Gordon's outstanding Soldiers, civilians and volunteers were recognized in an awards ceremony Thursday at Alexander Hall.

Selected from the quarterly awards winners, these individuals were chosen as the best of all Fort Gordon's top performers. They are:

Staff Sgt. Lakisha Starks is the *Instructor of the Year for 2003*. She is assigned to Headquarters and A Company, 442nd Signal Battalion as an instructor/writer in the Officer Training Division of the School of Information Technology.

She provides automation training to officers and allied students attending the Signal Officer Basic Course, Signal Officer Branch Qualification Course and the Signal Captains' Career Course.

Since January, she has trained 680 students. She also manages automation equipment and training aids to support the training mission.

Starks joined the Army to gain technical experience in the computer field and to obtain a college degree, which she is currently working towards through the University of Maryland. Her first love is faithfully serving God. She is a dedicated member and adult choir director of the City of Refuge Christian Learning Center in Hephzibah.

She lists her second love as her husband Staff Sgt. Sean Starks and daughter Alasia, but not far behind that is her love for shopping for shoes, which currently occupies the majority of space in three closets.



The *Servicemember of the Year* is **Sgt. Matthew Lloyd**, a network switching systems operator assigned to Company C, 67th Signal Battalion.

A native of Lenexa, Kansas, Lloyd has been in the service for three years, spending most of that, 30 months, at Fort Gordon.

He joined the Army to learn a trade that he could use to prepare himself for a career when he gets out of the military. Another reason he joined was to become more disciplined and responsible. He has shown he's done this by winning this award and several others, such as distinguished honor graduate while at AIT and being on the commandant's list at the Primary Leadership Development Course.

In his current position, Lloyd installs, operates and maintains telephones, Internet and e-mail communications systems in a tactical environment. He spends a lot of his time training on new equipment technology.

In his spare time, he enjoys playing guitar and writing music, particularly rock and blues. He inherited his musical talent from his mother, Becky, whose career is singing. He also likes to restore old Mustangs and Volkswagens with his father, Stan, and enjoys spending time with his little sister, Jenny. However, the majority of his extra time is spent cramming for boards, such as the E-6 board held Thursday. His future goals include earning a bachelor's degree in information technology.



Staff Sgt. Sara Smith is the *Non-commissioned Officer of the Year* for 2003.

Smith is a telecommunications operator-maintainer, who is currently assigned as a drill sergeant in Company B, 551st Signal Battalion. She is responsible for the health and welfare of 55 servicemembers. Her primary duties are to assist Soldiers in their efforts to complete their initial entry phase of training, while ensuring they become proficient in basic soldiering tasks and physical fitness training.

While in the Army for the last eight years, Smith has traveled far from her hometown of Troy, Pa., being stationed in Kuwait, Italy, Korea and Florida.

A member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, Smith's future goals are to obtain a master's degree in information management and to become a command sergeant major.

When her Soldiers aren't keeping her busy, she enjoys watching movies and reading a good mystery book.



The *Civilian of the Year* for 2003 is **Judy Wyatt**, who serves as a quality assurance evaluator for the Adjutant General Division.

She ensures the terms of the contract between the government and the military personnel contractor are met. She monitors their performance, recommends actions, and serves as liaison between them and the government.

At the suggestion of her husband, James, she accepted a job at Fort Gordon. He told her that the jobs were easy and paid a lot of money; now, 28 years later, Wyatt states that she is still looking for that easy, high-paying job.

A native of Miami, her hobbies include photographing her grandchildren (Crystal and Caleb), walking, dining out, watching movies and reading.

The Wyatt's have two children – Kimberly Jones and Dawn Abercrombie.

Wyatt's future plans are to retire in a couple of years, travel and spoil her grandchildren.



The *Volunteer of the Year* for 2003 is **Rae Lynne Guthrie**, who volunteers at numerous locations around the installation as well as off post. She donates her time and efforts to the Officers' Wives' Club as honorary senior advisor, in addition to helping at the Thrift Shop and flea market. She also works with Christmas House, the Army Family Action Program, Army Family Team Building Program, Boy Scouts and Freedom Park Elementary.

Off post, she can be found volunteering at Westminster School and with her church as a youth leader and organist. She has volunteered for more than 20 years, spending three of those years at Fort Gordon.

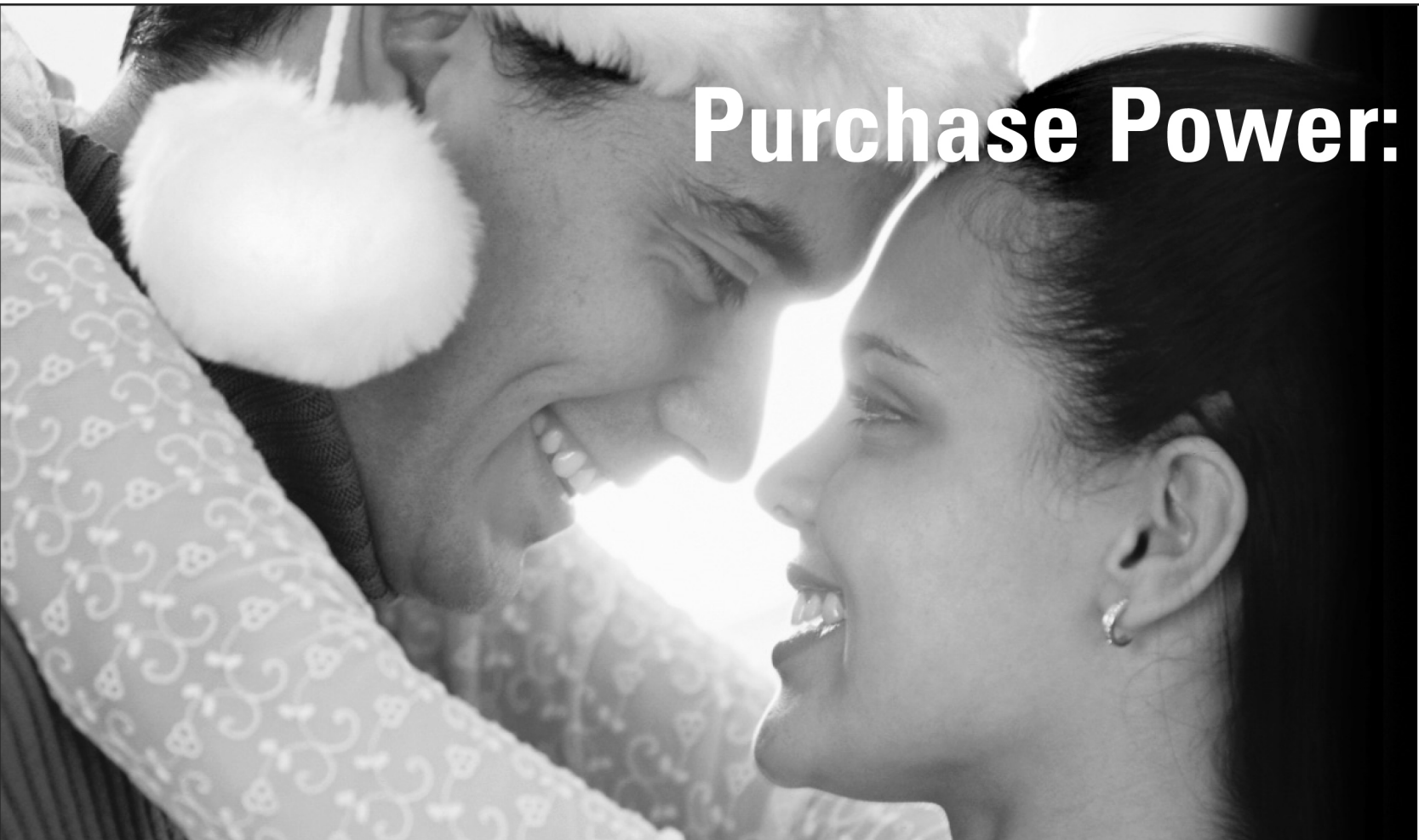
A native of southern California, Guthrie is married to Col. Michael Guthrie, and they have four children – Paige, Cameron, Benjamin and Christian.

When she isn't busy volunteering and taking care of her family, she enjoys sewing, scrapbooking and gardening.



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Christmas Angel

Soldier leads holiday toy drive

Sgt. Ryan Matson
Signal military editor

She didn't have to do it. In fact, many people wouldn't have even considered doing it. But Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Murden, Company A, 551st Signal Battalion, is not like all other people — she cares about others and is willing to take her time to help them. “I feel like I'm so blessed, I wanted to help somebody,” she said. “It's just something I needed to do, something I love to do.”

So Murden called her daughter's elementary school and was referred to Linda Hammond, a 13-year volunteer at the Columbia County Foundation for Children whose mission is “to provide services that will enrich the lives of children who are limited in their advantages to be the best they can be.” “She's our angel,” Hammond said.

What Murden did greatly affected five area families. Thanks to her efforts, the families will be able to enjoy a Christmas with presents for their children.

“I wanted to do something for some of the less fortunate children for Christmas,” said Murden.

The foundation does a variety of work for disadvantaged children of all ages attending various schools in Columbia County. They accept clothing donations which go to families that are referred to them by the Department of Family and Children Services. They provide clothing and household items to families who have lost their home in a fire. They act as a telephone service for foster families, pay children's fees for summer school, sponsor educational and recreational programs and more.

During the Christmas holiday season, the foundation's work is increasingly important. During this time, the foundation gathers food baskets, gifts, toys, school supplies and various other items to provide a better Christmas for disadvantaged children. The children and their families are screened for need based on applications given out by school workers and reviewed by the DFCS.

Murden learned from Hammond that out of the approximately 160 families and 460 children in Columbia County the foundation is helping this year, 11 families still needed gifts.

The 551st Signal Battalion sponsored five of these 11 families; 16 children in all. Each company, as well as the command group, sponsored a family.

“We got the children's first names and their ages and their clothing sizes, and a wish list of what they would like to have,” Murden explained.

That was all she needed. Murden went to work, and gathered donations from the 551st Signal Battalion staff and cadre.

The 551st Signal Battalion did not disappoint her. In fact, the companies got into the giving mood, raising more than \$1,000 to buy toys and other items for the families. Company B raised more than \$400, the S-3 section, of which Murden is the non-commissioned officer in charge, raised about \$150, the command section contributed about \$200, and when all was said and done, the battalion had raised enough to get the children the items on their wish lists.

The battalion gathered items such as teaching toys, clothes, underwear, shoes and some extra gifts the battalion threw in.

551st Signal Battalion commander Lt. Col. Karla Donovan, a mother of five children, got into the giving spirit of Murden's drive. She personally bought several food vouchers for all five families.

“She's got a really big heart,” Murden said. Donovan had every child's wish list from the family the command group sponsored committed to memory. She said she was happy to have her battalion follow Murden's lead and participate in the program.

“We kind of wish we could have sponsored all the families, but that would have probably been a little too much to ask of everybody,” Donovan said.

“This way, the battalion as a whole was able to give back

to the community at large, and that's always our intent.”

Hammond said that Murden's was the first group on Fort Gordon who had donated gifts or other items to the foundation Christmas program. The other donations were given by local churches, businesses and schools.

Other than their names, Murden and the others who participated in her drive know nothing about the children they will have helped with their charity. They won't even be able to see them open the presents. But this didn't hinder

Murden's efforts in the least.

“I've done something like this every place I've been stationed,” said Murden, who is about to retire after 20 years in the Army. She said that when she retires, she would like to do some volunteer work like Hammond is doing now.

Ceciel Coard is one of the people who will see the benefits of Murden's kindness. She picked up gifts for her grandchildren Saturday at the Columbia County Emergency Warehouse on Faircloth Road donated for use for the foundation's holiday drive.

“I think it's great,” Coard said as she picked up her grandchildren's presents. “It's a blessing to be able to help someone.”

That makes Murden a very blessed individual.



Photo by Sgt. Matson

Pfc. Jason Gourlie (left) and Pvt. Gustav Hoecht, C Company, 551st Signal Battalion, carry presents donated by the battalion into a warehouse for the Columbia County Foundation for Children. The Foundation distributes the toys to area children in need. “It's good to be part of something that makes a difference,” said Gourlie.

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Signal takes flight

Steve Brady
 Signal editor

Wednesday marks the 100th anniversary of the historic day when Orville and Wilbur Wright broke the bonds of gravity and took flight, forever cementing man's fascination with flight.

Aviation has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1903. Since those historic 12 seconds at Kitty Hawk, N.C., great strides have been made in both civilian and military aviation, some of which can be traced directly back to the Signal Corps.

In the beginning
 The military has used various forms of flight dating back hundreds of years when armies used carrier pigeons to relay information on the battlefield.

Balloons were used in the Civil and Spanish American wars, and although early attempts of signaling from balloons were largely unsuccessful, they did provide valuable intelligence to commanders.

Balloons were used to spot enemy positions and from the Signal perspective, to relay messages from ground-air-ground. The drawbacks, however, quickly became apparent.

"The balloon above gave your position away," said

Robert Anzuoni, director of the Signal Corps Museum, referring to a tethered balloon.

And with the advent of artillery and machine guns, balloons quickly became easy targets.

"What (balloon pilots) ended up having to do was sit on the edge of the basket with a parachute on, because they knew they were going to draw a lot of fire, so they had to get ready to jump out," he said.

But with the Wright Brothers' inaugural flight, the

Army quickly recognized the usefulness of the aircraft.

Signal takes the lead
 On Aug. 1, 1907, Brig.

Gen. James Allen, chief Signal officer, established the Signal Office Aeronautical Division, and the Signal Corps ran the aviation program until 1918.

"In fact, early aviator wings incorporated the Signal wigwag flags," Anzuoni said.

The first project for Signal aviation was a balloon detachment stationed at Fort Omaha, Neb., and in 1908 the first military airship, a dirigible, was ordered for \$6,750. The ship was required to stay aloft for two hours with a two-man crew, and travel at least 20 mph.

During that year, Lt. Thomas Selfridge, a Signal officer and aviator, had the inauspicious distinction of becoming the first modern aviation death when, in December 1908, the aircraft he was training in crashed at Fort Myer, Va.

Also in 1908, the Army ordered its first "heavier-than-air flying machine" from the Wright Brothers. Specifications called for the craft to travel 40 mph and stay airborne for at least an hour. Costing \$30,000, a huge amount at the time, the aircraft was delivered to the Army at Fort Myer in August 1909.

The first aircraft was fragile and unsophisticated by today's standards, however the technology quickly progressed.

First use of military aircraft

In June 1911 the Army established an aviation school at College Park, Md., as well as a winter training ground in

Augusta, Ga., to take advantage of its mild winters. The school, located near the Savannah River near what today is Beech Island, S.C., was short-lived however. An unusually cold winter followed by ice and snow that spring caused the Army to move its year-round operations to San Diego in 1913.

In 1914, the Aeronautical Division became known as the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps.

By this time, aircraft were starting to look more like traditional aircraft and less like the early stick and fabric Wright Flyer. Although machine guns and radios had been used from Army military aircraft as early as 1912, the first military use of the airplane was for reconnaissance during the Mexican Expedition of 1916.

"They were looking for Pancho Villa, and they went to (conduct reconnaissance) by air to see if they could find him," Anzuoni said.

"They were flying at higher altitude in the mountains and it was very dry weather, and the propellers dried out and split, so they lost a lot of aircraft to mechanical problems," he said. Although the mission was unsuccessful in finding Villa, they did learn a lot about the climatic effect on early aircraft, Anzuoni added.

The aircraft had come a long way in less than 20 years, but it still took advantage of old-school tactics.

"In World War I they would still use pigeons," Anzuoni said. "They would put them in the airplane, and when they were out of range

THE WRIGHT BROTHERS

On 17 December 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first sustained human flight in a power-driven machine. Their machine was airborne for only twelve seconds. Three additional flights were made on that same day. The third flight lasted almost a minute and covered a distance of 850 feet! Man now realized one of his most ancient dreams – to fly with wings. Five years later the United States Army purchased a Wright flying machine for \$30,000. The birth of the Signal Corps aeronautical era had begun.

Graphic courtesy Fort Discovery

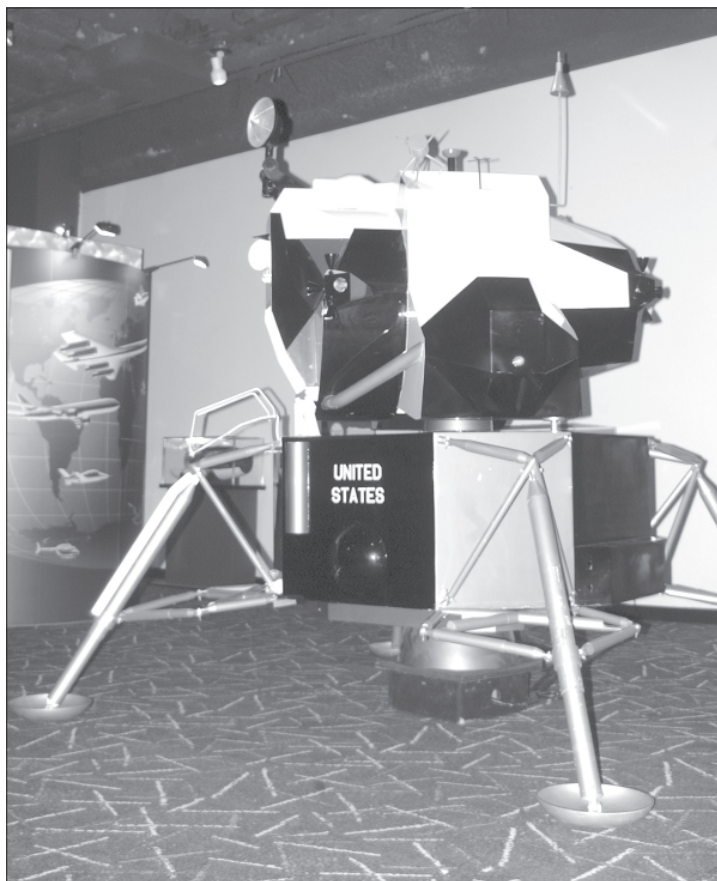


Photo by Steve Brady

A 1:3 replica of a Lunar Excursion Module is one of the many displays that are part of the Fort Discovery Celebration of Flight exhibit. A 1:3 replica of a Gemini Capsule and other space-related materials are also on display.

See Flyer, page 9A

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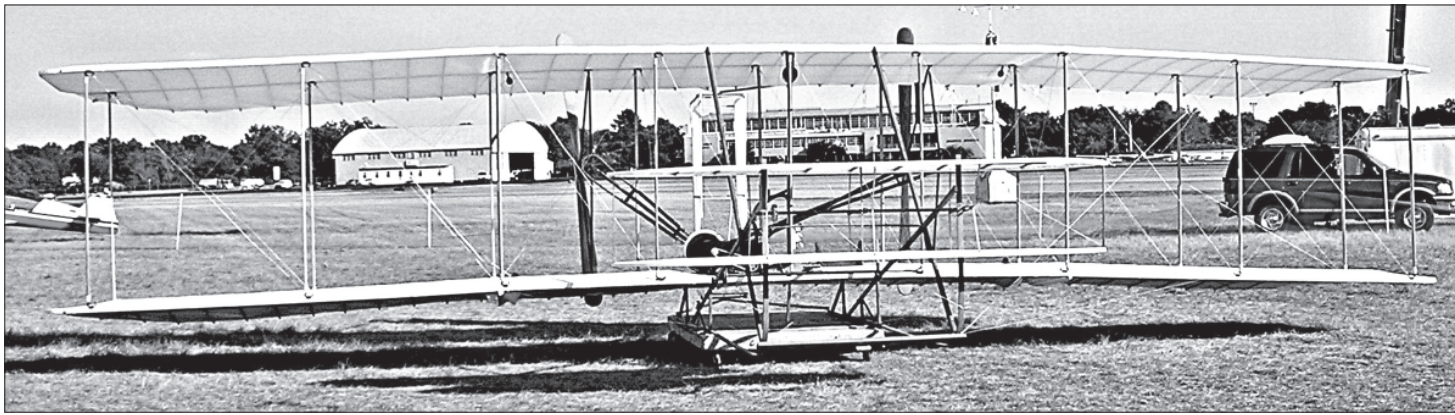


Photo by Bob Moak

It took 12 volunteers more than 1,300 hours to construct a full-scale replica of the Wright Flyer. The 400-pound craft contains more than 2,000 feet of wire and could theoretically fly if equipped with an operational engine. It is on display at Fort Discovery in Augusta through Jan. 31.

Flyer

From page 8A

of the radios, they would send a pigeon back. They had this latest high technology, which was the aircraft, and something as primitive as a messenger pigeon, so they kind of combined those two technologies."

Birth of the Army Air Corps

The National Defense Act of 1916 reorganized the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps to include a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, eight

majors, 24 captains and 141 lieutenants, and two years later, the Army Air Service was formed in 1918 after the United States fought in World War I.

"During World War I, aircraft were used for resupply, bombing and strafing, and many of the uses you see today," Anzuoni said. "With the growth of the whole Army in World War I, I think they saw the need to have a separate corps."

Following the war, the Army Air Service became the Army Air Corps (1926) and later the Army Air Forces (1941) until after World War II, when in 1947 the Army

gave birth to a new branch of service: the U.S. Air Force.

Local influence

The Army heavily influenced today's Air Force.

"It was the Army Air Corps until 1947, and all the early leaders in the Air Force, even in my time, some of the high-ranking generals, all were products of the Army Air Corps," said Buster Boshears, manager at Daniel Field and interim manager at Augusta Regional airport.

Boshears spent six years in the Air Force, from 1967-1973, flying F-105s and F-4s, before moving to the Air Force Reserves, where he also flew F-16s. He is currently a colonel in the inactive Reserves, until he retires in June.

"The Army had a tremendous influence on the Air Force," he said. "A lot of debate today regarding the use of air power goes back to the ideas of the Army and the formation of the Air Force."

The Army influenced aviation, as well as Augusta's, in yet another way.

"The area around Daniel Field was an Air National Guard training center during World War I," he said.

"Where the airport is now was a parade ground, and airplanes landed there before it was an airport." The city purchased the ground and formally established an airport there in 1927, naming

it for the mayor at the time, Raleigh Daniel, he said.

"During World War II it was known as Augusta Air Base military field and was used for basic training, a POW camp and as a holding field for aircraft being redeployed to the war," Boshears said.

Daniel Field continued as a commercial airport until the 1950s, when commercial activity moved to Bush Field.

Modern air travel

Even though the Signal Corps had gotten out of the aviation business in 1918, it continued to maintain aircraft to test Signal equipment, and also maintained control of the Signal equipment onboard the aircraft through World War II, Anzuoni said.

The Signal Corps' influence can still be felt today. Advances in communications can be traced back to work done in the Signal Corps.

"After World War II, they used radar systems to bounce a signal off the moon, a natural satellite, proving in theory they could bounce a signal off an artificial satellite, Anzuoni said.

It took another 10 years or so to launch a satellite, he said, but that opened the door for radio, television, cell phone communications and more that are in use today.

"Although they didn't know what (research then) would result in, the Signal Corps has made a significant impact on technology today, just as today's research will undoubtedly impact the future."

If you go

Fort Discovery currently features an exhibit titled *Celebration of Flight* commemorating 100 years of flight. The 5,000-square-foot display runs through Jan. 31, and features replicas of the Wright Flyer, Gemini capsule and lunar lander, and a timeline chronicling the history of powered flight.

Admission is \$8, children, seniors and military \$6. Also showing are four short films related to flight. Admission to the Paul S. Simon theater is an additional \$2. The center is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, noon-5 p.m. Sundays, closed on holidays. Phone 821-0200.

The Signal Museum at Conrad Hall also features a display of Army aviation and Signal history. Admission is free. Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays, closed Sundays, Mondays and federal holidays. Phone 791-2818.



Photo by Steve Brady

This 1:2 scale replica of a Curtiss JN-4D Jenny is part of the *Celebration of Flight* exhibit. The Jenny, used heavily in World War I, was used for primary flight training, but some were equipped with machine guns and bomb racks. The plane had a top speed of about 75 mph.

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201st Military Intelligence Battalion

The newspaper read, “Woman Trampled in Department Store Frenzy.” Shoppers had gathered outside the store the day after Thanksgiving in order to get DVD players for a measly \$29. As the siren blared for the opening of the store, the herds of people trampled a woman as her daughter fought to assist her.

She tripped and fell as the crowds pushed to get inside. Even as her daughter shouted that someone had fallen, the people kept coming and walking over her collapsed body. Some tried to stop and lend assistance but others didn’t.

The woman had to be flown to a hospital where she had a seizure from being trampled upon. She will need to spend a few days in the hospital before being released. Her daughter stated she was black and blue all over.

We have all heard of stories of people fighting in toy stores over the latest “hot” Christmas toy of the season. That is the meaning many have about the holidays, but what does Christmas, Kwanzaa or Hanukkah mean to you? Hopefully, it is not about trampling people or having a knock-

down drag-out over making sure little Johnny or little Lisa gets what they want.

Is this what our holidays have come to? It doesn’t have to be this way. The true meaning of the holidays is about peace, joy and hope for the world, and not about who has the most toys. These are three things I know we could all use more of in this world and in our homes.

The holidays are about family and faith. Many people no longer have a family. No one comes to visit them. Many of our elderly are put away in nursing homes and are never visited by family or friends, because we are too busy or it is too uncomfortable for us to see the ones we once loved in that bad of shape.

Families are supposed to be our most precious treasure that we are given in life. For many, this treasure has lost its luster and is tarnished beyond recognition. For me, my family means everything. My family is always there for me and prays for me, especially when I deployed to Kuwait during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Christmas is about remembering and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Let us make the most and the best of our time with our families as most of us are home for the holidays.

Troops mark holiday with Iraqi orphans

Sgt. Brent Williams
Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi children were shy, staring at the festive decorations adorning the walls of the dining room where the paratroopers awaited their arrival. Hesitant at first, the children’s timid faces began to smile.

The children, orphans from the southern village of Al Jebachy, came to Camp Falcon to celebrate the Islamic holiday, Ramadan’s Feast of Eid Al-Fitr Nov. 26.

The special dinner was arranged by the 407th Forward Support Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jeff Douville and Battalion Chaplain Timothy D. Smith.

“The chaplain and I thought it would be a great idea to celebrate their Ramadan Feast and our Thanksgiving together,” Douville said, “particularly with the orphaned children of the village because it is a very lonely time of year for them.”

Paratroopers of the 407th

FSB, the combat support battalion for the 82nd Airborne Division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team, played host at the feast, serving hamburgers and spaghetti with meatballs and fruit, cake and ice cream for their special guests.

“The soldiers really enjoy being around the children this time of year, because it reminds them of family,” Douville said.

Traditionally, Iraqi parents give their children special gifts to celebrate the holiday festivities; however, these children, many who lost their parents in what the Iraqi people call the “Saddam Wars” of the late 1980s and 1990s, normally go without, said Smith.

This year has marked a change for the children and the village on many different levels, said Maj. Bob Merkel, executive officer, 407th Forward Support Battalion.

The village of Jebachy, a rural stretch of land south of Al Rashid District in Baghdad, is home to more than 2,000 Iraqis, including the more than 70

orphans. In the time since the 2nd Brigade Combat Team arrived in Baghdad in May, the 407th has taken responsibility for the village, working to renovate the neglected hamlet.

Working closely with the village’s mayor, Musa Humadi Dawood, and other leaders, the forward support battalion repaired schools, water-pumping stations, roadways and other special projects to help rebuild the impoverished area, said Douville. It was during this time that the mayor introduced his orphans to the battalion’s commander and chaplain.

“We wanted to do something special for these orphans,” Chaplain Smith said, “because we know the day following the end of Ramadan is a feast day, and in a regular family, the mother and father would have gifts for their children.”

So after the meal, the combat support soldiers of Task Force Falcon delivered gifts of soccer balls and baby dolls, coloring books and crayons to the children.

“It’s nice to interact with the children and get to know the people of Iraq,” said Spc. Joseph Casey, mechanic, Company B, 407th FSB. “It makes you feel like we’re actually making progress here.”

The children, unable to hide their smiles, hurriedly received the presents, gifts that came as the result of donations from families back at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Under the guidance and direction of Smith, the 407th’s Family Readiness Group is promoting a program called “Operation Iraqi Family.” The FRG collects donations of clothes, shoes, and other needed items not only for the Iraqi orphans but also the poor, elderly, handicapped and widowed in Iraq.

Currently, the battalion receives the donations of money, clothes, shoes and other items through the mail service at their Army Post Office address.

The battalion’s webpage, www.407fsb.com, carries full details about Operation Iraqi Family and the 65 Iraqi families it supports, said Smith.

“It leaves a message for the Iraqi people in Jebachy and our soldiers,” Smith said, “... that Americans truly care about them by showing and sharing their lives.”

The battalion plans to bring packages to the needy families in Al-Jebachy and hopes to bring the children back to Camp Falcon for another special meal around Christmas, said Smith.

“It shows the community that we care,” said 407th FSB Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald DeVega, “that there is another side of us. We have families as well. We are here with open arms, and we’re giving at the same time.”

The event ended with the battalion chaplain leading the soldiers and their guests in a prayer for peace and happiness.

(Williams writes for the 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Airborne).)



Spc. Jason Baker

Spc. Jeremiah Peoples, Co. C, 407th FSB, hands a young orphaned Iraqi a soccer ball and coloring book as a gift during their Eid Al-Fitr celebration Nov. 26.

Reserve, Guard get commissary benefits

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 granted Army Reserve and National Guard members, along with their families, unlimited access to commissaries.

Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act Nov. 24.

The bill contained provisions eliminating the restrictions. Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no

longer have to present a Commissary privilege card when they shop.

“Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that Reservists now have unlimited shopping,” said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency.

Nixon noted that special thanks should go to Charles Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Abell acted immediately to provide interim authority for the Reserve component to have full-time commissary shopping just in time to take advantage of holiday savings.

Christmas Eve service

There is a post-wide Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. **Dec. 24** at Bicentennial Chapel, Building 28414, Brainard Avenue. For information call 791-3874.

Holiday church schedule

The following masses are at the Good Shepherd Chapel Building 29608, Barnes Avenue:

- **Tuesday** – Communal Penance Service, 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 24** – Christmas Children’s Mass, 5 p.m. and Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, midnight
- **Dec. 25** – Christmas Mass, noon
- **Jan. 1** – New Year’s Day Mass, noon

For information, call 791-2945.

Services at the Religious Education Center include a Protestant Sunday School Christmas program 9 a.m. **Dec. 14** at Royal Signal Hall.

Sunday school schedule

The holiday schedule for Sunday school and CCD is:

- Dec. 28** – Sunday school and CCD will not meet
- Jan. 4** – No Sunday school

For information call 791-4703.

Jewish services

Hannukah is **Dec. 20-27**. For information on services downtown, call:

Conservative: Adas Yeshurun Synagogue, 935 Johns Rd., 733-9491.

Reformed: Walton Way Temple Congregation Children of Israel, 3005 Walton Way Extension, 736-3140.

Orthodox: Chabad of Augusta, Broad Street, 722-7659.

Drill sergeant spotlight

Name: Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lennard
Unit: Company D, 447th Signal Battalion
Hometown: Tampa, Fla.
Time at Fort Gordon: 31 months

What do you enjoy about being a DS? Transforming civilians to Soldiers who can accomplish any mission given to them.

What do you want to accomplish in the Army? I want to continue to train tomorrow’s leaders and prepare them to take my job when it is time to move on.



Sgt. 1st Class Lennard

Chapel Call

Collective Protestant Services

Sunday
9:00 a.m. • Liturgical Service, Bicentennial Chapel
9:00 a.m. • Gen “x” Soldiers Service, Friendship Chapel
10 a.m. • Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel
11 a.m. • Gospel Service at Signal Theatre
11 a.m. • Bicentennial Chapel
11 a.m. • Friendship Chapel

Catholic Services

11:45 a.m. Monday thru Friday, Eisenhower Army Med Ctr. Chapel
12:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, Good Shepherd Chapel
3:30 p.m. Saturday, Confessions, Good Shepherd Chapel
5 p.m. Saturday, Vigil Mass, Good Shepherd Chapel

Sunday Masses

8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel
11:45 a.m. Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel

Jewish Activities

Holy Day Services, Announced
Jewish Activities Center, Bldg. 38804
Daily and Sabbath service available off-post for Jewish personnel
For information call 791-3959

Islamic Services

Jumah Prayer Service on Fridays Oct-Apr at 1245-1:30, and Apr-Oct from 1:30-2:30.

These are held in Bldg. 38804, Academic Drive.
For more information, call CPO (Ret.) Marshall Abuwi 772-4303

Denominational Services

LDS Service - Sunday 2 p.m., Barnes Avenue Chapel
Samoan Service, Sunday 1 p.m., Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414

Religious Education

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, Religious Education Center
Sunday, 11:00 a.m., Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Classes, Religious Education Center (Sept. thru May).

Other Programs/Services

Episcopalian Soldier Representative is Kurt Miller at 791-0213
LDS representative is Sergeant 1st Class (retired) Scott Robison, 533-0376. Apostolic Pentecostal’s representatives are Chaplain Brewster, 791-4683, or Chaplain Snyder, 791-2539

Bible Studies

OCF Bible Study - Monday 6:30 a.m., Officer Christian Fellowship Bible Study, Friendship Chapel, 791-2056. Friday evening OCF POC is Col. Hook, 863-8231, or Capt. Craft, 364-5144.
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 28414
Bicentennial Chapel

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., Devotional Luncheon, Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg. 28414
Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Protestant Women of the Chapel, Bldg. 28414
Wednesday 11:45 a.m. EAMC Bible Study, DDEAMC Dir. Fac. Conf. Rm., 3rd floor
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Bldg. 39713, Faith Community Bible Study
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Friendship Chapel Bible Study
Thursday, 11:30 a.m. 63rd & 67th SIG BN Bible Study, Contact Chaplain

Chapel Directory

Bicentennial Chapel, 791-3959
Good Shepherd Chapel (Catholic), 791-2945
Faith Community Chapel Activities 791-4703 (during duty hours)
Barnes Avenue Friendship Chapel, 791-2056
Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel, 787-6667

Religious Education

Protestant/Catholic Program, Mr. Randall Dillard 791-4703

**For additional information, call 791-4683
the Installation Chaplain’s Office, Building 29601**

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NEW Black Hawk Down Scenario!

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Courtyard Recreation
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Ask about Holiday
Gift Certificates!

Call for Current
Operating Hours
294-7475

Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre Presents



**GARY
CONRAD**
Master Hypnotist

OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC!

December 13
Tickets: \$10.00

CALL EARLY FOR RESERVATIONS.

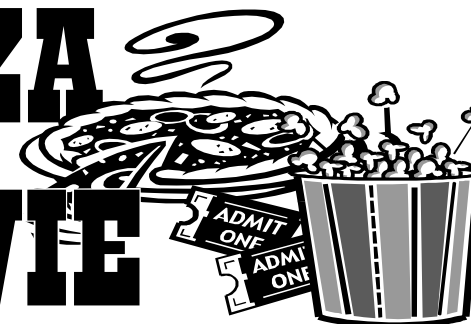
TWO SHOWS

7:30 PM (RATED G) & 10:00 PM (RATED PG 18)

CABARET SEATING ONLY COFFEE, DESSERT INCLUDED
CASH BAR AVAILABLE

THIS SHOW IS SURE TO SELL OUT. BOX OFFICE 793-8552

PIZZA AND A MOVIE



Featuring **"The Santa Clause 2"**
16 December at The Gordon Club

\$3 Pizza Buffet from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Drink, Popcorn and Movie included!
Movie begins at 5:30 p.m.
Come early, limited seating.
No unattended children.
Come see what DMWR & The Credit union has for you!!

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22 Nov -24 Dec

All in stock items

10% OFF!



... at the

Garrison Holiday Blood Drive!

When: Wed., Dec. 17, 2003, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Courtyard Recreation and Dining Center

**Why: Blood collected benefits Soldiers
and their families, including those
deployed now!**

Free T-shirts!

*All blood donors receive coupon for FREE TURKEY DINNER the
day of the drive, or to be used for a dinner later at the Courtyard!*

*Those who cannot donate blood and donate \$5 towards phone cards
for deployed Fort Gordon Soldiers will also get the coupon!*

ASBP
Armed Services Blood Program



**SELECT
AUTO SALES**

Community Events

Holiday blood drive

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Garrison Command, is sponsoring a holiday blood drive, **Wednesday** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Courtyard Recreation and Dining Center.

All donors receive a coupon for a free turkey dinner the day of the drive, or to be used at a later date at the Courtyard. Those who cannot donate blood and donate \$5 towards phone cards for deployed Fort Gordon Soldiers will also get the coupon.

For more information, call 791-8500.

EWC gift wrap

The Fort Gordon Enlisted Wives Club's Annual Christmas Scholarship Gift Wrap is currently in operation until **Dec. 24** in front of the Post Exchange. This is EWC's only major fundraiser. For information call Ginny Terry at 790-2086 or Rosemary Marshall at 791-2675.

Reward offered

The Fort Gordon Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$500 reward for information concerning the armed robbery which occurred Oct. 27 at the Anthony's Pizza/Burger King kiosk, Building 25711 on 26th Street.

Any information concerning this investigation should be sent to Special Agent Timothy Parker at 791-4611.

CPAC training

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is hosting an Employee and Labor Relations Seminar for supervisors of Department of Army civilian personnel **Jan. 20-22**.

The training will be held at the Courtyard from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Training is funded by Fort Gordon for Fort Gordon employees.

Civilian and military leaders are eligible to attend. Contact Carla Baucom at 791-3956 or e-mail baucmc@gordon.army.mil to sign up. Registration required, classers filled on a first-come basis.

Ed center news

Beginning Jan. 8, the American Military University will have a representative at the Education Center the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., to answer questions about the programs and services available from the university. The Education Center is located in Building 21606, Barnes Avenue.

For information call Juva Alexander 791-2000.

PX holiday hours

The Post Exchange has the following extended hours starting Monday:

Monday-Dec. 20, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Dec. 22-23, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
Dec. 24, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Breakfast hours

Charley's in the Post Exchange food court is now open for breakfast, 8-10 a.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 9-10 a.m. Sundays.

For information, call Patricia Schneider 793-7171 x317

Transitional compensation

Transitional compensation is a program designed to provide compensation and benefits to the spouse and children of military personnel when they have been subject to spouse abuse.

To apply for transitional compensation contact your local Staff Judge Advocate, victim/witness liaison or the Army Community Service

Family Advocacy Program victim advocate coordinator.

For more information call 791-0793 or go to www.gordon.army.mil/acs.

FCC certification

Child and Youth Services will conduct Family Child Care certification training for family members living in government quarters who wish to provide child care in their homes.

Orientation is 9-10 a.m. Jan. 16; classes held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 20-27 in Building 45400. Initial applications process to become a provider will be held Jan. 5-9. For information, call 791-3993 or 791-4440.

Orientation course

The commander and first sergeant Orientation Course is Jan. 12-16 in Darling Hall, Room 229B. Class begins at 8:45 a.m. Monday, 9 a.m. Tuesday to Friday, and is finished no later than 5 p.m. daily.

Registration deadline is 5 p.m. **Dec. 19**. Any commander or 1st sergeant who has just assumed command, has been serving in the position six months or less, or who are about to take command may attend.

To register or for information call Sgt. 1st Class Darron Ison at 791-9536.

Appreciation sale

The Fort Gordon Thrift Shop is having a customer appreciation sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Tuesday**.

All Thrift Shop merchandise is reduced 75 percent. Refreshments will be served. For information, call 791-2779.

Christmas Eve service

There is a post-wide Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. **Dec. 24** at Bicentennial Chapel, Building 28414, Brainard Avenue. For information call 791-3874.

Warrant officers wanted

The Army is looking for motivated Soldiers, Marines, sailors, and airmen to fill warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in 45 specialties if you qualify. Soldiers with less than 12 years active service are encouraged to apply. For information, go to www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or call DSN 536-0484.

BIG scholarship

The Greater Augusta Chapter of Blacks in Government is offering a scholar-

ship for Richmond and Columbia county high school graduating seniors. Applicants will be judged on scholastic standing or trade aptitude, as well as citizenship, character, participation in school and community activities, the applicant's stated desire and sincerity for furtherance of her/his education and letters of recommendations.

Applications available from high school guidance counselors; deadline for applications is **Dec. 19**. For information call Thomas Brown Jr., at 736-0778.

Christmas activities

Fort Discovery is having a Holiday Camp **Dec. 22-23** and **29-30**. Children in grades K - 5 may participate in camp for one day or all four days. There will be a different camp each day and operating hours are 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost: one Day - \$25/ members; \$30/non-members, four days - \$90/ members; \$110/non-members.

For information and applications call Lisa Golden at 821-0646.

Smart start for vets

A SmartStart representative will be at the ACAP Center **Wednesday** at 11:15 a.m.

SmartStart For New Vets provides eligible service-members, and their spouses, with entry-level job opportunities at top corporations.

For more information, call the ACAP Center at 791-7333 or go to www.smartstartvets.org.

Employment workshop

A weekly workshop, "Tools of Employment," is held 9-11 a.m. **Monday** mornings to assist in resume writing, job searching, and interviewing techniques.

The workshop meets in the Community Life Building, 33512.

For information, call 791-3579.

Bariatric support group

The Bariatric Support Group meets at 6:30 p.m. the **second Tuesday** of each month at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in the hospital auditorium on the first floor; the meeting begins at 7 p.m. The group is open to pre-op and post-op patients, and anyone interested in learning about the surgery. Call Florrie Cox at 595-8330 for information.

Story hour

Woodworth Library hosts story hour each **Wednesday** from 11 a.m.-noon.

Children of active and retired military, and DoD civilians are invited to participate. The program is designed for children ages 2 through 5.

Volunteer readers are also needed for story hour. For information, call Liz Knight or Joyce Daniels at 791-7323.

PIE meetings set

Parent Information Exchange meetings are the fourth **Thursday** of every month in the ACS conference room from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A different agency is highlighted from the community to share information with parents about various medical conditions and educational issues. Call 791-4872/3579 for information about EFMP.

Orientation

A newcomer orientation is held **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** at 1 p.m. in Room 367, Darling Hall.

EFMP news

The Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program has a new support group by and for parents of exceptional family members.

If you have information to share and would like to join the team call 791-3579.

Surviving military separation

Army Community Service offers a support group for deployed soldiers' spouses. This is an opportunity for spouses to share ideas and strategies on how to cope with stress associated with the service member's absence.

The class is held from 1-2:30 p.m. the first **Wednesday** of each month in Darling Hall, Room 367. For information call 791-3579/7557.

Bible study

The Fort Gordon Family life Center presents a Bible study for adults titled *Family Life According to the Bible* from 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Sundays** at the Religious Education Center, Building 39709. Other classes are available for all ages. For information, call 791-4703.

EFMP event

The Exceptional Family Member Program meets for bowling at Gordon Lanes Bowling Center the third **Monday** of each month from 5-6:30 p.m. The night includes door prizes and free shoe rentals. For information call 791-4872/4718.

Fantasy of lights

The Fantasy of Lights to benefit Easter Seals is today, Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Dec. 24 at Augusta Golf and Gardens.

The Augusta Golf and Gardens is located along Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta.

Enjoy nightly entertainment, special events, and hot cocoa.

Admission is \$4 for adults,

\$2 for ages 12 and under, 3 and under free. Save 50 cents each by showing military identification.

Extended hours

The Fort Gordon commissary has extended holiday hours: **Dec. 20** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., **Dec. 21** 10 a.m.-7 p.m., **Dec. 22-23** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., **Dec. 24** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., **Dec. 25** closed.

Dec. 26-27 9 a.m.-7 p.m., **Dec. 28** 10 a.m.-6 p.m., **Dec. 29-30** 9 a.m.-7 p.m., **Dec. 31** 9 a.m.-7 p.m., **Jan. 1** closed.

PTA meeting

The Freedom Park Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association meets at 6 p.m. **Tuesday**. All parents are encouraged to attend.

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. Shows begin at 6:30 p.m. The late show on Saturday begins at 9:30 p.m.

Children 12 and over and all adults are \$3. Children 6-11 are \$1.50. Children under 5 are free.

For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

Dec. 12-18
Friday - Mystic River (R)
Saturday - Mystic River (R)
Late show - Scary Movie 3 (PG-13)
Sunday - Scary Movie 3 (PG-13)
Thursday - Brother Bear (G)

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

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Currently Open from 9 AM - 11 PM

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Try Out One Of Our
Cappuccinos, Snacks, or Cold Drinks In
Our Lounge Area

MILITARY \$5 PER HOUR

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Call 706-364-7771 to check hours

Directions to shop: 120 Exit 199, turn south toward Augusta. Drive approximately 1/2 miles to Bertram Rd. and turn right into the Stein Mart/Washington Square Shopping Center at 2834 Washington Rd., next to International Hair & Nail

visit our website: american-internet.tripod.com

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Celebrate with fine dining and live music
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Includes: *Hotel accommodations
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Fort Gordon REPORT



COMING UP

The newest edition of the *Fort Gordon Report* premieres Monday and includes the following stories:

- **Signal Symposium**
- **"Make-A-Wish" on Fort Gordon**
- **Troops get Thanksgiving dinner in Harlem**

The *Fort Gordon Report* and *Army Newswatch* alternate weeks on Charter Cable Channel 13 on: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The next edition of *Army Newswatch* premieres **Dec. 22**.

Catch the newest *Fort Gordon Report* on Comcast Cable Channel 66 on: Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

The *Fort Gordon Report* is the Signal Center's official television news program and is produced on post by the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office and the Training Support Center.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Big buck contest

The Big Buck contest on post is open to all Fort Gordon Hunting License holders ages 10 and older.

The contest runs through **January**, with prizes for the first, second and third place winners in four divisions.

The cost of entering is \$20 for the general public and \$10 for members of the Fort Gordon Sportsman's Club.

For more information, call 791-3317, or go to www.fortgordon.com/fgsc.htm.

Hypnotist performs

Gary Conrad, Master Hypnotist, performs at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre **Saturday**.

Conrad will perform two shows, the first, "Rated G" show, at 7:30 p.m., and the second show, "Rated PG-18", at 10 p.m.

There will be no dinner, however refreshments will be available. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 793-8552.

Ladies golf schedule

The Ladies Golf Club tees off every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at Gordon Lakes Golf Course.

For more information, call Pauline Blandeburgo at 863-4737.

Horseback riding

Open riding is available 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. **Saturdays** and **Sundays** on a first come, first served basis at the Hilltop Riding Stables. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday open riding is available from 1 - 3:45 p.m. with reservation. Miniature ponies, beginners, intermediate and advanced horses are available.

Call 791-4864 for reservations.

Karaoke

Every **Thursday** is karaoke night at the Courtyard Recreation and Dining Center.

Karaoke is featured from 6 to 10 p.m. Prizes are awarded for best male solo, best female solo, worst solo, best duo or group, worst duo or group and best look-a-like.

The event is open to the public. For information, call 791-6000.

Holiday blood drive

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, United States Garrison Command, will sponsor a holiday blood drive, **Dec. 17** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Courtyard Recreation and Dining Center.

All donors will receive a coupon for a free turkey dinner the day of the drive, or to be used at a later date at the Courtyard. Those who cannot donate blood and donate \$5 towards phone cards for deployed Fort Gordon Soldiers will also get the coupon.

For more information, call 791-8500.

Clarification

In the Dec. 5 Signal newspaper, page 1B, the caption beneath the runners was misleading.

The caption should have read "Command Sgt. Maj. Reuben Peppers, 15th Signal Brigade command sergeant major, leads the brigade during the Regimental run to kick off the week's activities Monday."

Unit basketball round-up

Al Robinson

Sports Coordinator

As the Fort Gordon Unit Level basketball league entered into its fourth week, the Women's Division got off to a slow start due to forfeits. Three teams, Company E, 447 Signal Battalion; Company D, 551 Signal Battalion; and 73rd Ord. Battalion, forfeited two games and were removed from the league. Their opponent will receive a 2-0 win in any scheduled games. Last week's (Dec. 2 to 5) game results are:

Green Division (Gym 3)
Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Academy 49, Company C, 67th Signal Battalion 32

Tony Glass of the "Non-coms" led all scorers with 18 points. His teammate Trevor Thomas hit for 13 points.

518th Signal Company 71, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 93rd Signal Brigade 34

Quintrell Becton and Cornell Evans, both of 518th Signal Company, 93d Signal Brigade, had 14 points each. *Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Academy 59, Company B, 67th Signal Battalion 46*

Tony Glass of ANCOA tossed in 15 points. *Company C, 67th Signal Battalion 34, 518th Signal Company 68*

518th Signal Company had balanced scoring from the team. They had three players in double figures; Cornell Evans with 13 points; Aljamar Ward with 12 and Quatrell Becton with 10..

Company A, 67th Signal Battalion 46, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 206 Military Intelligence Battalion 47

Marius Thomas of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 206 Military Intelligence Battalion led all scorers with 12 points.

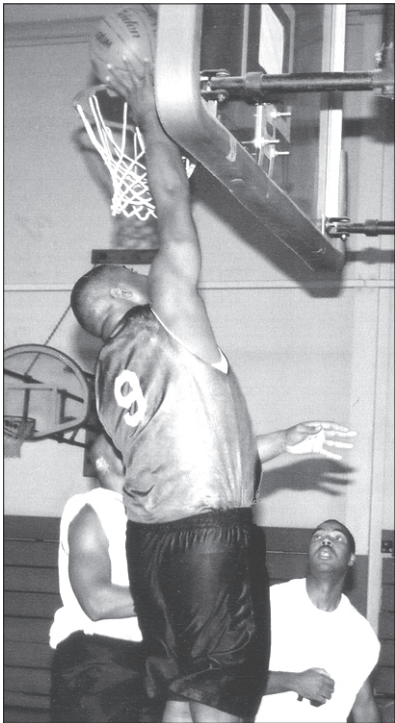
Company B, Eisenhower Army Medical Center 2, Company A, 67th Signal Battalion 0

HHC, 206th Military Intelligence Battalion 64, 31st Intelligence Squadron (USAF) 43

Chris Price of Headquarters and Headquarters 266th Military Intelligence led all scorers with 28 points.

Red Division (Gym 3)
Company A, 447th Signal Battalion 38, Naval Security Group Activity 30

Mark Nash of Company A, 447 Signal Battalion led all



(Left) Patrick McCaskill of HHC, 67th Signal Battalion, connects on a lay-up for two points in the game against Company A, 447th Signal Battalion. (Right) Company B, 551st Signal Battalion head coach Brad Jefferson gives his team instruction during their game with Company C, 369th Signal Battalion.



Photos by Al Robinson

scorers with 11 points. *Company A, 369th Signal Battalion 41, United States Army Garrison 40*

USAG had two players in double figures; Parchell Jones (14 points) and Gabrel Young (11 points.)

Company A, 369th Signal Battalion 34, Headquarters and Operational Company, 201st Military Intelligence 43

Von Barra of Headquarters and Operational Company, 201st Military Intelligence led all scorers with 22 points. Eric Connors of Company B, 369th Signal Battalion hit for 10 points.

Detachment 1, 338th Training Squadron (USAF) 32, 249th General Hospital 64

Company A, 73^d Ordnance Battalion 42, Company A, 447 Signal Battalion 55

Shann Gillem of Company A, 447th Signal Battalion led all scorers with 18 points. His teammate Bryan McDonald contributed 17 points. Company A, 73d Ordnance Battalion had two players in double digits; Ricardo Vaccasia and P J Watts.

Naval Security Group Activity 48, Detachment 1, 338th Training Squadron (USAF) 19

Naval Security Group Activity had balance in their team scoring. Rucker Loren of NSGA led all scorers with 11 points. Mike Furcough of 338th Training Squadron had 10 of his team's 19 points.

Company A 447th Signal Battalion 29, Headquarters and Operational Company, 201st Military Intelligence 63

Von Barra of the winners led all scorers with 24 points. *Company A, 551st Signal Battalion 61, Company A, 73^d Ordnance Battalion 26*

Norman Beckton of Company A, 551st Signal Battalion led all scorers with 16 points. His teammate Dervon Burnett

had 13 points. Prince Watts of Company A, 73d Ordnance, had 10 points.

Naval Security Group Activity 44, 249th General Hospital 53

Derrice White of the winners had 29 points. Loren Rucker of NSGA had 13 points.

Headquarters and Operational Company 77, Detachment 1, 338th Training Squadron 46

Malcolm Curry of the winner led all scorers with 29 points. Keith Wallace of Detachment 1, 338th Training Squadron' pumped in 18 points.

HHC, 67th Signal Battalion 63, Company A, 369th Signal Battalion 41

Charles Evans of the winners led all scorers with 18 points. George Hayes of Alpha Company hit for 10 points.

Blue Division (Gym 5)
Company E, 369th Signal Battalion 49, Company B, 47th Signal Battalion 43

Vincent Jackson of Company E, 369th Signal Battalion had 17 points for the winners. Company B, 447th Signal Battalion had two players in double figures; Eddie Jackson 17 points and Shawn Carperter 10 points.

Company B, 73^d Ordnance Battalion 70, Company C, 73^d Ordnance Battalion 44

Company B, 73d Ordnance only had eight players and they all scored. Three hit double digits; Kodi Hooks hit for 20 points, Andre Harding found the mark for 15 points and Leonard Field contributed 10 points.

Company B, 447th Signal Battalion 37, Company D, 447 Signal Battalion 35

Derrick Harper had 11 points for the winners. Alton Fortner and Bryan Vaughn of Company D, 447th Signal Battalion each had 11 points.

Company C, 447th Signal Battalion 42, Company B, 73rd Ordnance Battalion 68

Adam Clark of Company C, 447th Signal Battalion led all scorers with 18 points. His teammate Dustin Harrison had 13 points. Kenball Brockman of Company B, 73d Ordnance Battalion had 17 points and his teammate Leonard Field hit for 15 points.

Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion 34, Company B, 447th Signal Battalion 32

Paul Ybarbo of the winners led all scorers with 14 points. His teammate Quadi Hudgins hit for 10 points.

Company D, 447th Signal Battalion 55, Company D, 551 Signal Battalion 60

Bryan Vaughn of Company D, 447th Signal Battalion led all scorers with 19 points. Company D, 551st Signal Battalion had three players in double figures; Larry Bailey, Kenny Grant and Michael Wilson .

Company C, 369th Signal Battalion 0, Company C, 551st Signal Battalion 2

Company B, 551st Signal Battalion 0, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course 2

Company E, 369th Signal Battalion 39, Company D, 551st Signal Battalion 43

Larry Bailey of Company D, 551st Signal Battalion, led all scorers with 27 points. Vincent Jackson of Company E, 369th Signal Battalion, had 17 points.

Company C, 551st Signal Battalion 62, Company B, 551st Signal Battalion 31

Dracus Graham of Company C, 551st Signal Battalion led all scorers with 17 points. His teammates Mike Licausi and Damon Pinero contributed 11 points each. Rene Hypolite had 10 points for Company B, 551st Signal Battalion.

Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course 50, Company E, 369th Signal Battalion 39

Joseph McHomes of BNCO led all scorers with 14 points. Teammate Jason Reed added 10 points. Company E, 369th Signal Company, had two players in double figures; David Frasier and Alvertc Austin. *Company C, 551st Signal Battalion 2, Company C, 369th Signal Battalion 0*

Company C, 369th Signal Battalion was removed from the league Dec. 4 for forfeiting two games. Company C, 442nd Signal Battalion was on standby and will accept Company C, 369th Signal Battalion's win-lose record.

Women's Division (Gym 4)
Company D, 551st Signal Battalion 0, Company B, 297th Military Intelligence Battalion 2

Eisenhower Army Medical Center 24, Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion 22

EAMC's scoring was spread out among its players. Katrin Meehtyre of Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion had 11 points.

Company B, 297th Military Intelligence 24, Company C, 369th Signal Battalion 28

Shannon Taylor of Charlie Company hit 10 points for the winners. Christian Brown of Bravo Company led all scorers with 13 points.

Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion 2, Company 5, 551st Signal Battalion 0

Eisenhower Army Medical Center, 28, Gordon Region Security Operation Center

(Multi-Service) 24
Company A, 442nd Signal Battalion 34, Company C, 369th Signal Battalion 15

Company D, 447th Signal Battalion 0, Company B, 551st Signal Battalion 0

Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Academy 45, Company E, 369th Signal Battalion 16

Tara Brown of the winners had three 3 pointers, for a total score of 19 points. Her teammate Beverly Bush contributed for 11 points.

Advance Noncommissioned Officer Academy 2, Company E, 447th Signal Battalion 0

Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Academy 33, Company B, 551st Signal Battalion 10

Tara Brown led all scorers with 17 points.

Morning Division (Gym 5)
Company B, 447th Signal Battalion 63, Company D, 369th Signal Battalion 15

Domion Harper of Bravo Company had 15 points. His teammate Jasen Yulee hit for 11 points.

Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion 54, Company E, 369th Signal Battalion 46

Andrew Harris of the winners led all scores with 19 points. Teammate Jonathan Shigemura hit 10 points. Company E, 369th Signal Battalion had three players in double figures.

Company C, 73^d Ordnance Battalion 44, Company D, 447 Signal Battalion 34

Charlie Company had two players in double digits; Jonathan Shigemuya and Bradly Hall. Delta's Roland Penny led all scorers with 19 points.

Company E, 369th Signal Battalion 43, Company C, 447th Signal Battalion 38

Jacob Yaden of Echo Company had 12 points. Charlie Companys Brandon Bell hit 22 of his team 38 points.

Company D, 47th Signal Battalion 59, Company D, 369th Signal Battalion 14

Matthew Moore of the winners led all scorers with 22 points.

Unit Basketball Standings

Team				Standings As of Dec. 9			
Blue Division				Morning Division			
Team	Won	Lost					
B-73	6	0		C-73	5	0	
C-447	4	1		B-447	3	1	
C-551	4	1		B-551	3	1	
B-447	4	2		C-369	3	1	
D-551	3	2		D-447	2	3	
BNCO	3	2		C-447	1	3	
D-447	2	4		E-369	1	4	
E-369	2	4		D-369	0	5	
B-551	2	5					
C-442	1	5					
C-73	0	6					
Green Division				Red Division			
518	4	0		HHC-67	5	0	
ANCOA	4	0		HHC-201	6	1	
B-297	3	1		A-442	5	2	
HHC-206	3	1		A-551	4	2	
252	2	1		NSGA	4	2	
B-67	1	1		USAG	3	3	
HHC-93	1	2		249	2	3	
B-EAMC	1	3		338TRS	2	5	
311S	0	4		A-369	2	5	
A-67	0	3		A-447	1	5	
C-67	0	3		A-73	0	6	
Women's Division				Women's Division			
EAMC	10	0		EAMC	10	0	
A-442	8	1		A-442	8	1	
GRSOC	8	1		GRSOC	8	1	
B-297	8	2		B-297	8	2	
E-369	6	2		E-369	6	2	
C-369	7	3		C-369	7	3	
ANCOA	7	4		ANCOA	7	4	
B-551	5	6		B-551	5	6	
E-447	5	13		E-447	5	13	
73	3	17		73	3	17	
D-551	1	19		D-551	1	19	

Soldiers test for German badge

Sgt. Ryan Matson

Military editor

They came from all over post – the dental lab, nuclear medicine, 551st Signal Battalion, Garrison, the Signal Officer Basic Course – all seeking one thing...the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency.

More than 30 Soldiers tested for the GPB this week, a badge which consists of eight events – a 200-meter swim, the long jump or high jump, a 100-meter sprint or alternate sprints, the shot-put or 100-meter sprint swim, a 5K or 3K run (males) or 2K run (females), first aid, marksmanship with a Beretta 9 mm pistol, and a ruck march of between nine and 18.7 miles, depending on a contestant's age and gender.

Gold, silver and bronze level badges are awarded to those who meet all the standards. This is determined during the shooting event.

If a Soldier hits six out of six targets in the shooting category, he/she can undergo the ruck march at the gold level distance determined by age (i.e. 18.7 miles for males between the ages of 18 and 29 years).

If a contestant were to hit five targets, he/she could ruck-march for the silver-level badge and if four targets were hit, for the bronze, each with correspondingly shorter distances based on age.

During the shooting event, contestants shoot at two targets from 25 meters from the prone, kneeling and standing positions. They are allowed 15 seconds to accomplish this and must change clips from a four-round magazine to a two-round magazine in the process.

"This is different from the stuff you're doing in your Army," said Sgt. Maj. Hartmut Fiege, the German Liaison sergeant major, who conducted the testing for the badge. "It's a little of everything."

Fiege has been testing Soldiers on Fort Gordon for the badge since 1999, in which time he said he has

awarded roughly 300 badges to more than 1,000 testers. He said he has administered the test, almost on a monthly basis since 1999, primarily to students in the Signal Officer Basic Course, although other groups on post have participated in the training and testing.

Capt. William Platte, HHC, U.S. Army Garrison commander, initiated the training as the company commander of Company A, 447th Signal Battalion more than a year ago, and earned the badge himself in so doing. During that time, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Cynowa, Company A, 447th Signal Battalion, led three groups of Soldiers through the training for the badge.

When Platte left the 447th Signal Battalion for Garrison, he brought the training program for the German Badge with him. Training for the badge was opened up to units from throughout post, resulting in this testing group - a culmination of SOBC students and permanent party Soldiers.

On Nov. 3, a briefing was held by HHC USAG to inform interested Soldiers on post about the badge and the opportunity to earn it. At that point, about 20 Soldiers began training for it in small groups, with Garrison company offering a set schedule of training sessions each week to those who were able to make it. At the height of the training, as many as 50 Soldiers were training for the Badge.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Huitt, U.S. Dental Command, is one of the people who tested for the badge this week.

"I wanted to do this because I tried before and failed, so I wanted to challenge myself and see where I stood as far as the German's scale for being physically fit," Huitt said.

He added that although the training may not consist of push-ups, sit-ups and the two-mile run (the events tested on the standard Army physical fitness training test), he still found the month and a half of training he did for the badge very ben-



Photo by Sgt. Ryan Matson

2nd Lt. Nicholas Miller, B Co. 442nd, Signal Officer Basic Course, heaves a shot-put during the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency testing Tuesday at Butler High School.

eficial.

"It still helps because you still have to run almost two miles (1.76 for males in Huitt's age group) in under 13 minutes, which is what I need to do to max my PT test anyway, and with the swimming and ruck marching thrown in, it's an all-around intense event."

The group of contestants who tested this week ranged in age from 22 to 50 years old. The group's oldest contender was Lt. Col. Ricky Olson, who works in nuclear medicine at Eisenhower Army Medical Center. At 50, he became the oldest Soldier Fiege ever tested for the badge on Fort Gordon. Olson competed in age category five, an age group that Fiege had to look up to find its testing standards.

The GPB is available on any post

where a German liaison is stationed, Fiege said. To administer the testing, a Soldier must be at least a sergeant in the German Army. He said that in the German Army every Soldier is required to test for the badge once a year, and at the very minimum, participates in the training for the badge.

The German training program starts in April and concludes in September, Fiege said, although he added if a Soldier is confident of passing the badge, he can test at an earlier date.

If someone is to fail one of the eight events in the testing stage, Fiege said participants may re-test for the failed event within a year of taking the test. If the Soldier fails two, Fiege said the testing is over and they must test all the

events at a later date. He said SOBC students have one chance to test for the badge while they are here in school.

This week's contestants tested in the 1.76 (male) and 1.24 (female) mile running event Monday at the paved quarter-mile track on Barton Field, the shot-put, high jump or long-jump and sprinting events Tuesday at Butler High School on Lumpkin Road, the swimming events Wednesday at the Fort Gordon indoor pool, the shooting event Thursday at Shooters on Washington Road, and the ruck march event Friday at Range and North Range roads.

(A story and photos on how this group of contestants fared will be in the Dec. 19 edition of The Signal.)

AUSA ends Symposium with a hole-in-one

Pvt. Armando Monroig

Signal staff

Signal Symposium week came to an end with a chilly but fun and friendly round of golf at Gordon Lakes golf course Friday.

Sponsored by the Association of the United States Army, the annual tourney drew 124 duffers.

The tournament was important not only because it acted as a fundraiser for the Greater Augusta/Fort Gordon chapter of AUSA, but the tournament also provided some relaxation time for its participants. Most of the participants had been busy all week working and attending symposium events.

One of these participants was Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, whose foursome included Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon command sergeant major, and representatives from the NetCom corporation.

"We were under (par) and we had a lot of fun," said Hicks. "But we aren't taking any trophies home."

Hicks said there seemed to be a lot of participation in the tournament and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves.

"It seemed like I heard a lot of laughing and hooting and hollering out there," she said. "So that's always a good sign."

She said she couldn't express what it means to get everyone together to bond and share information, which is part of the fun of the tournament.

The participants agreed, and said everyone deserved to let their hair down a bit after a big event like the Signal Symposium.

"They worked hard all week and deserve a little R and R," said James Rice, general manager of the Holiday Inn on Gordon Highway and



Photo by Armando Monroig

Though the conditions may have been a little less than ideal, they didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the 124 golfers who participated in this year's Greater Augusta/Fort Gordon Association of the U.S. Army annual golf tournament Friday. Local AUSA chapter president Bob Damen said the tournament was a success, not only because of the approximately \$6,000 it raised for the chapter, but also for ending Signal Symposium week on a high note.

AUSA board member. "I think it's also a good opportunity to get to know each other a little bit better."

Many of the vendors who attended the Symposium stayed around to attend the tournament. One of those was Sylvia Gross, trade show manager for ITT industries.

"We always support the golf tournament," said Gross. "It's a nice addition to participating in Fort Gordon."

Gross said her team doesn't normally win the golf tournament but they always have a good time.

Bob Damen, president of the AUSA Augusta chapter, considered this event a success.

He said AUSA has taken on the golf tournament as a fund raiser and done very well the last couple of years. The tournament has been part of the symposium for about 15 years, Damen said, although it has only been held to raise

funds for AUSA the last three. He said it has grown each year, and is the organization's second biggest fundraiser all year. Other AUSA fundraisers include the summer golf tournament and a bowl-a-thon in the spring.

"The money we collect is given to quarterly installation award winners," Damen said.

"Contributions are also made to various unit activities."

Some of the money is used to sponsor Soldiers on Fort Gordon for events like the annual 10-miler held in Washington, D.C.

Damen said he expects the tournament to raise about \$6,000. He said there has been a lot of corporate sponsorship and contributions from the Signal Symposium exhibitors.

William Clinefelter, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, was one of the individuals in charge of organizing the golf

tournament.

The tournament was broken into three flights, and prizes were awarded to the top three teams in each flight. Each of the 30 teams turned in a team score and every team score was ranked from best to the worst. Then the 30 teams were divided evenly into three flights. Prizes were awarded to the top three teams in each flight.

The first flight represents the top three teams overall, second flight represents the top three teams out of the bottom 20 teams, and third flight represents the top three teams out of the bottom 10. Prizes were also awarded to the last place team.

One of the prizes given out to all the participants of the tournament were tickets to the Signal Corps band's Christmas concert which was held at the First Baptist Church.

But, as many golfers said, the biggest prize of the after-

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Spectrum



Photo by Debra Bennett/Millen News

CHARGE!

Horse-mounted artillery battery stages Civil War re-enactment near Waynesboro

Steve Brady
Signal editor

Long before the Abrahms tank and Paladin self-propelled howitzer, the Army relied on a more modest approach to moving its artillery: the humble horse.

Horse-drawn artillery batteries were as common as Humvees during the Civil War and prowled the battlefield by the dozens, albeit at a slightly slower pace than the M1A1.

"There were typically four to six guns in a battery," said Maj. Steve Riggs, battery commander for Bachman's Mounted Battery, the horse-drawn artillery ceremonial unit for South Carolina. The Battery maintains the oldest horse-drawn artillery unit in South Carolina, and is one of only a dozen in the nation.

Each gun in a battery, referred to as a half section, consisted of two six-horse teams and two limbers; one that pulled the artillery piece and one that pulled a caisson with the ammunition, spare parts and other tools, he said. Six drivers, nine cannoneers and two chiefs were necessary to support each half section, in addition to support units that fed and cared for the soldiers, horses and equipment.

The horse-drawn artillery units remained in use during World War I, and were finally phased out completely in 1942, he said.

To keep the horse-drawn tradition alive, the unit participates in re-enactments throughout the region. It is staffed by a group of volunteers but retains a commission in the South Carolina State Guard.

On Friday and Saturday it participated in a Civil War re-enactment of the Battle of Buckhead Church, north of Millen, Ga. More than 700 students from Burke, Bulloch and Jenkins counties gathered for the event, to learn more about the Civil War-era army.

"We talked about difference in uniforms and explained bugle calls, then we brought the horse teams up and explain their jobs and ex-

plained how the guns fired. Finally, we fire the gun," he said. "They learn all the basics of the horse drawn artillery."

Besides the re-enactments, the unit also participates in military funerals, most recently providing the caisson for Sen. Strom Thurmond's funeral procession in Columbia, S.C., as well as his burial in Edgefield, S.C.

Riggs, who was drafted during the Vietnam War, said he does this not only to preserve history, but to honor fellow Soldiers.

"My brother in law's father was a paratrooper and landed at Normandy. He was a sergeant major at West Point, and was nominated for sergeant major of the Army. When they buried him, they just sent a chaplain - no rifle squad, nothing. This guy had served 40 years and was every bit of a sergeant major. He would tell me fantastic stories."

This spurred Riggs to create the Battery. After convincing the Old Guard in Washington to donate a team of horses, Riggs purchased much of the equipment using his own money, and gets state funding to travel and maintain the equipment.

Clad in Army dress blues, the unit provides ceremonial funeral duties for sergeants major and above and officers, as well as police officers killed in the line of duty.

"I do it because we have to take care of our war dead, they gave their last full measure," Riggs said. "If they died defending their country, we're going to bury them the best we can."

While the group's part in the funeral lasts but eight minutes, it takes more than 100 man hours to get ready, he said.

"When we get back from the field, we have to shine everything up and put it away ready to go, because in many cases we only have 48 hours notice (for a funeral)," he said.

"It's a good tradition, it's a good ritual," Riggs said. "It's an honor to help do this."



Photo by Debra Bennett

(Top) Four horses from the artillery "half section" pull a limber and artillery piece. (Above) A re-enactor at the battlefield explains different Civil War-era flags. Students attending the re-enactment also saw demonstrations about blacksmithing, a Union camp, soap making, Sherman's campaign and a medical tent. (Right) Volunteers in the Bachman's Mounted Battery don 1883 U.S. Army Light Artillery uniforms. (Below) "Soldiers" prepare to fire a cannon at the re-enactment. The cannons weigh 1,500 pounds, and when combined with the men and limber, the horse teams pulled up to 2,700 pounds.



Courtesy photo



Photo by Debra Bennett



Photo by Debra Bennett

Shelia Burkhart, Margarita Waters and Dot Cauley dress in era costumes as part of the re-enactment.



Courtesy photo

Here the Battery, clad in dress blues, carries Sen. Strom Thurmond's casket on the caisson through Columbia, as part of Thurmond's funeral procession in July.